



The “Mighty Eighth” Voice

The newsletter of Headquarters Eighth Air Force

September 2001

Volume 1 • Issue 4

QUICK TAKES

8 AFHS Chapter meeting

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society's Louisiana Chapter meets Sept 28-29 at the Holiday Inn located at 2015 Old Minden Road in Bossier City.

For more information, please call Ivan McKinney at (318) 742-0895 or Harry Tanner at (337) 527-0322.

Booster Club update

The following are important Booster Club dates:

- ♦ Oct. 1, Booster Club Elections
- ♦ Nov. 15, Thanksgiving Day potluck luncheon, POC Mrs. Pero at ext. 6-3334
- ♦ Dec. 20, Children's Christmas Party, POC Chief Master Sgt. Crozier at ext. 6-4313
- ♦ Dec. 8, Eighth Air Force Christmas Party, POC Capt. Carroll at ext. 6-2506

Historical Society Reunion

The 8th Air Force Historical Society holds their 27th annual reunion in Irving, Texas at the Harvey Hotel Oct. 24-29. The society will present two awards to active-duty members; The Pursuit of Excellence Award and The Ira Eaker Outstanding Airmanship Award. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya at DSN 781-2156.

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Photo by Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya

Lights, camera, action!

George Gregory (I) and Tech. Sgt. Wendy Cormier from the 367th TRSS from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, film the take off of a B-2 Spirit. The film crew visited Whiteman AFB, Mo., recently to video various activities on base for the upcoming 8th Air Force mission video.

Global Strike Task Force: New CSAF unveils new innovative concept

by Master Sgt. Terry Somerville
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — Successful real estate is all about the three L's: location, location, location. To succeed in war, the three A's are critical: access, access, access.

Access means being able to get your forces to the battlefield in any situation. To prepare for potential 21st-century challenges to worldwide access — like ballistic-missile strikes against air bases and troops — Gen. John P. Jumper has un-

veiled an innovative new concept: Global Strike Task Force.

It is designed to be the Air Force's contribution to the nation's “kick-down-the-door” force for the new century. A Global Strike Task Force will open the way for everyone else, no matter what the enemy can throw against U.S. forces. It will dominate the air, the first requirement for modern warfare, and take out enemy assets that threaten a U.S. deployment.

The concept is built on new technology. ● See **TASK FORCE**, page 3

Events build camaraderie on and off battlefield

By Lt. Col. William Bernard
Commander, 608th COS

"Upon the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds, that upon other fields, and other days, will bear the fruits of victory"... General Douglas MacArthur

General MacArthur would be proud of two events here at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Headquarters in the last couple of weeks.

The first event, the 8th Air Force Combat Dining In, hosted by 608th ACOMS, brought over 150 warriors from across the staff to participate in a night of tradition, camaraderie, competition and just plain fun. ACOMS assembled a formidable team of warriors ready to do battle against an equally competent coalition from the rest of the directorates.

Planning for battle started well in advance of D-Day. Opposing teams conducted some serious crisis action planning in the days preceding the event. Troops readied their weapons, designed and built impenetrable fortifications, and planned detailed strategy for attacking the opponent's vulnerable areas. There was a significant amount of intelligence (although not necessarily intelligent) assessment being conducted, and psychological operations from both camps.

On the night of battle, the troops squared off in hand-to-hand combat (pugil sticks), braved enemy gunfire in a race against time (relay race), and tested troop strength (literally) in a tug-of-war. The final conflict gave the commanders the chance to execute their Operations Plan and attack enemy forces head on. When all was said and done, there were a few

wet soldiers, a couple of relatively dry commanders, and a battlefield full of shrapnel that looked surprisingly like water balloons.

The second event was the 8th Air Force Annual Sports Day, organized and executed by a team of volunteers from across the staff. Despite the rain, our warriors competed in basketball, bowling, golf, racquetball, volleyball, push-ups/sit-ups, cycling and a 5-kilometer run.

Throughout the day teams worked together to defeat their opponents. They discussed strategy and rotated team members for maximum effect. Event organizers flexed to accommodate the rained-out competitions. In the end, the Stars got the "boot" with the Stripes winning the trophy, everyone agreed it was a good time.

But as much fun as I had participating in the competitions, I couldn't help but think about the timelessness of General MacArthur's words, and how appropriate they are for these types of events. Because what I saw more than anything else during both events was teamwork — teamwork on the field of battle during the combat dining in, teamwork on the basketball court, teamwork in the Stars versus Stripes game as the good guys tried to figure out a way to remove a couple of Stripes.

And it wasn't just the teamwork on the field that made me think of MacArthur's quote; it was also the teamwork in the trenches from the "heavy



Lt. Col. William Bernard

lifters." It was the professionals from ACOMS that turned a hangar into a combat mess hall, an overgrown field into a battle zone, and a Dining In into a unique and memorable experience. It was the organizers for the Sports Day, coordinating venues, referees, and scheduling. It was the picnic planners, adjusting for the terrible weather conditions and putting together a tremendous

backup plan. Virtually every member of the headquarters contributed in some way or another to the concept of "team."

And what we didn't realize, in the middle of all the fun, was the teamwork we used to plan and execute the Dining In, the teamwork necessary to battle on the volleyball court, and the teamwork involved in putting together a picnic, is the same teamwork we use when we are developing an Air Campaign Plan or executing an air tasking order. The communication, strategy, and leadership we see on the "fields of friendly strife" are the same characteristics we need when we put together a team of evaluators for a unit inspection or build the RTOC communications infrastructure.

Through activities like the Combat Dining In and Sports Day, Mighty Eighth warriors sow the seeds of teamwork that will lead to victory on the battlefield. We are the best Air Force in the world; our teamwork is what makes us great. General MacArthur would be proud.

The "Mighty Eighth" Voice

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● **TASK FORCE, from page 1**

gies and new ideas about using military force. First is stealth capability, said Jumper, who is currently the commander of Air Combat Command but who has been confirmed as the next chief of staff of the Air Force.

The task force leads with F-22 Raptor stealth fighters to clear a path, taking out enemy aircraft and advanced anti-aircraft missile launchers. B-2 Spirit stealth bombers follow to destroy assets that threaten U.S. deployments: Scud missile launchers, chemical-weapon bunkers, air and shore defenses, for example. Sea- and air-launched cruise missiles help that effort.

The F-22, now in development, combines stealth and advanced avionics for a “first-look, first-shot, first-kill” capability needed to beat the advanced fighters and surface-to-air missiles now being sold around the world. The F-22 will bring stealth capability “into the daylight” for the first time. Not only will it fly missions 24-hours a day, but it will let the F-117 Night-hawk stealth fighter and the B-2 fight around the clock as well.

The task force needs to know where the threats and targets are. That means bringing together all of the reconnaissance and command functions now carried out by platforms like the E-3 Sentry (AWACS), E-8C Joint STARS, the U-2 Dragon Lady and the RQ-1 Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle plus special-operations forces behind enemy lines.

They will be combined either into a single aircraft or a “constellation” of manned systems, unmanned systems, satellites and people on the ground. The specific platform does not matter, Jumper said. What is important is bringing together the mass of data flowing into the system and automatically turning it into “decision-quality” information for commanders.

For instance, suppose U.S. forces spot a Scud missile launch, Jumper said. Today, warfighters go to different data sources to find out where the launcher is, what weapon is available to take it out, where the missile will hit.

“In fact, the machines already know the answers to all these things,” Jumper



Photo by Judson Brohmer

The F-22 Raptor is one of the key pieces of the new Global Strike Task Force concept. In a conflict the Raptor and the B-2 bomber will eliminate air and ground threats, clearing the way for U.S. forces.

said. “If the machines could just talk to each other, we’d know the answers to all those questions instantly.”

Knowing everything you need to know about the enemy’s situation and your own leads to “predictive battlespace awareness,” another element of the Global Strike Task Force. It is “a microscopic, all-encompassing understanding of the battle space in all four dimensions, the ability to anticipate the right move rather than simply react to enemy moves. It’s the art of prediction,” Jumper said. It is studying intelligence information starting at “D-Day minus 365 days” — knowing all the time what is needed to fight a war or put down a crisis, not just putting a force together when a crisis erupts.

Putting all these capabilities together in the Global Strike Task Force may save time and lives, Jumper said. Precision strikes against an enemy’s crucial warfighting assets in the opening days of a conflict “give him an excuse to quit.”

If the enemy does not take that opportunity, kicking down the door opens the way for the rest of America’s warfighting team. Ground and naval forces will provide their crucial abilities; airpower will

dominate the battlefield as long as the conflict lasts.

Key to the follow-on forces will be the Joint Strike Fighter, expected to join U.S. forces in 2011. Plans call for enough of the fighters to provide “persistent stealth” over the battlefield, Jumper said. This means stealth capabilities will be available every minute of the conflict, the first time that will be possible.

Most of the technology to make the Global Strike Task Force a reality exists or is in development now. The road ahead includes determining what advanced weapon systems are needed. The Air Force will also work to educate its airmen, members of the other services, and American allies to make sure the concept is integrated into future operations.

The technological advances that make the Global Strike Task Force possible give America an opportunity, Jumper said. Ignore them, and the nation might not like the results. History shows us “battles, campaigns and wars that were lost because fundamental changes in the nature of warfare went unrecognized,” he said. (Capt. Maureen Metzger contributed to this report)

8th Air Force Commander visits Russia

Military-to-military exchange program builds understanding between countries

By Airman 1st Class David Jackson
2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The Eighth Air Force commander, Lt. Gen. Tom Keck, and three Air Combat Command wing commanders returned August 25 from a week-long visit to Russia.

Keck said the visit was a significant part of a military-to-military exchange program developed to build greater trust and strengthen U.S. relationships with Russia's leaders for the 21st century.

"It is extremely important that the military leadership of both countries understand each other," said Keck. "Reciprocal visits are always great opportunities for our countries to do just that."

Accompanying Keck were Col. Wendell Griffin, 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB, Texas; Col. Edward Rice Jr., 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.; and Col. Dick Newton, 5th Bomb Wing, Minot AFB, N.D. During the visit, Keck's team was sponsored by Russian General-Lieutenant Mikhail Oparin, commander of Russia's long-range aviation.

"General Oparin is an extremely gracious and thoughtful person," said Keck. "He went out of his way to ensure we understood the Russian people, their culture and religion. This historical, cultural and religious focus helped give us a unique, inside perspective on their military and its relationship to our military, particularly our long-range aviation."

"I've seen Russia from 80,000 feet during the Cold War, and I've studied Russia extensively," continued Keck. "But to see it firsthand was an incredible experience. General Oparin couldn't



Courtesy photo

Lt. Gen. Tom Keck, Eighth Air Force commander, and a Russian instructor pilot prepare to fly in a Russian Tu-22M-3 Backfire during Keck's visit to Russia. Keck and an accompanying team of wing commanders returned from the week-long visit August 25.

have gone more out of his way to help us understand his people's perspective. He truly made the visit very special."

Keck said flying the Russian Tu-22M-3 *Backfire* was one of the best parts of the trips highlights. The *Backfire* is a variable swept winged bomber capable of flying at the speed of sound.

"The flight was incredible. The pilot I flew with couldn't speak English, and I couldn't speak Russian, yet we still understood each other because of the universal language of pilots," said Keck.

Later in the visit, Keck met with Russian General Anatoly Kornukov, the commander in chief of the Russian Air Force.

"General Kornukov and I had a great discussion together. We both agreed that continuing this military-to-military contact between our two countries would be very beneficial to our relationship," said Keck.

Keck and the accompanying wing

commanders plan to give briefings on the visit to educate other U.S. Air Force units, based on the information and lessons learned during their trip.

"The Russian people have a very rich history. They are a very dedicated and hard working people and are doing their best as they transition through a transformation in their armed services," said Keck. "Russia and Eighth Air Force also have a rich history of working together, dating back to flying B-17's together out of Poltava during World War II. With this visit and more like it, our friendship will continue to grow."

During the visit, Keck's team visited three Russian air force bases and toured Moscow. As with the past three military-to-military exchanges, this visit was initiated under the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program to foster greater trust and understanding between the two country's strategic forces.

"It's working!" said Keck.

Eighth Air Force Salutes!

Sports Day 2001 winners

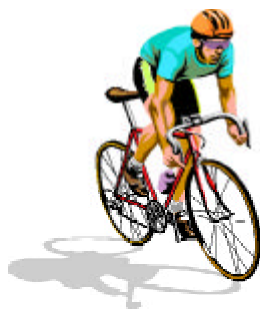
Sports Day 2001 was held August 31, despite the occasional flooding. Here is a list of all the winners from the various events held:

5K Run/Walk: Male

- 1st - MSgt. Troy Sanders, A6 (Group 4)
- 2nd - MSgt. Brian Ward, A1/4/CC (Group 1)
- 3rd - Capt. Jeff Montgomery, A2 (Group 3)

5K Run/Walk: Female

- 1st - Lt. Col. Donna Rogers, A6 (Group 4)
- 2nd - Capt. Kendra Mathews, A1/4/CC (Group 1)
- 3rd - 1st Lt. Liz Greenfield, A2 (Group 3)



Cycling:

- 1st - A6 (Group 4)
- 2nd - A2 (Group 3)
- 3rd - A1/4/CC (Group 1)

Situps/Pushups:

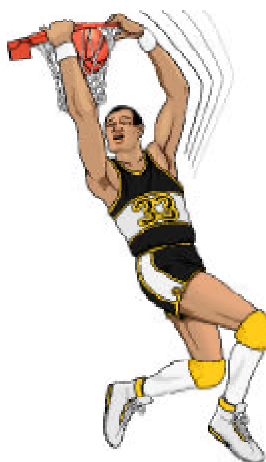
- 1st - A1/4/CC (Group 1)
- 2nd - A2 (Group 3)

Golf:

- 1st - AOG (Group 2, Gideons, Phan, Elkins, Dempsey)
- 2nd - AOG (Group 2, McGuirk, VanDerveer, Harris, Green)
- 3rd - A1/4/CC (Group 1, Breedlove, Dykes, Bolles, Schexnider)

Basketball:

- 1st - A6 (Group 4)
- 2nd - A6 (Group 4)
- 3rd - AOG (Group 2)



Bowling:

- 1st - AOG Blue Team (Group 2)
- 2nd - AOG Purple Team (Group 2)
- 3rd - A6 Team 5 (Group 4)

Racquetball:

- 1st - Chip Harmeson, AOG (Group 2)
- 2nd - William Hurt, AOG (Group 2)
- 3rd - Carlton Green, AOG (Group 2)

Volleyball:

- 1st - AOG Team 1 (Group 2)
- 2nd - A2 Team 1 (Group 3)
- 3rd - A6 (Group 4)



Overall Sports Day Champions went to the AOG (Group 2)!

●And the Stripes used their skills at scrap-volleyball to beat the Stars in a three- game match!

Aerospace Warrior Attitude



Senior Airman Merianne Belino
608th Air Communications Squadron

Years of service: 1 year, 10 months

Hometown: Garland, Texas

Family: dad, Max; mom, Victoria; and brothers Malvin, Marc, Maury and Macmill

Job title: Networks Flight Information Manager

Primary duties: Performs workgroup management functions and establishes procedures to support networks flight administration.

Most rewarding job aspect: When I realize the importance of what I do and exactly how my job affects the entire mission.

Goals: Finish my bachelors degree and open my own daycare facility.

Hobbies: Reading, baking, traveling and spending quality time with family.

What motivates your winning attitude: My loving family and friends, who I surround myself to reflect my values, goals, interests and lifestyle.

Favorite aspects of Barksdale: NCOs willing to go the extra mile to ensure airman progression, which the Air Force needs to stay number one.

Editor's note: To nominate an Aerospace Warrior, the individual's supervisor should call the Public Affairs office at 456-2156. Please include the person's full name, rank and phone number.

SGLI coverage extends to family members

by Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance will be extended to provide coverage to family members beginning Nov. 1.

The government has always had an excellent estate program to protect family members in case of a servicemember's death, said Maj. Jeffrey T. Keef, chief of Air Force military estate and special pays policy at the Pentagon. However, little has been available to provide the military member financial protection in the event of a family member's death.

Under the new provisions, spouses and children will be automatically covered if the military member is an SGLI participant, Keef said. The member will have the option to decline spouse coverage if submitted in writing.

The maximum automatic coverage is \$100,000 for a member's spouse, and any lesser amount must be evenly divisible by

\$10,000, Keef said. However, the amount of coverage of a member's spouse cannot exceed the amount of coverage of the insuring member.

Premiums for spouse coverage will be charged based upon spouse's age and will range from 9 cents to 55 cents per \$1,000 of coverage. For example, \$100,000 of coverage could be obtained on a spouse younger than 35 for \$9 per month.

There is also a policy conversion option for the insured spouse after loss of eligibility for SGLI, he said.

Children will be covered automatically for \$10,000, and no premiums will be charged the member, Keef said. In cases where both parents are eligible SGLI participants, the child may not be insured by

more than one member.

In the event of a family member's death, any insurance in effect will be paid to the insuring member. If the member passes away before payment can be made, then the amount will go to the people named as the member's beneficiaries.

"The Air Force sees this as a good deal for its members," Keef said. "By allowing members who have elected coverage only under SGLI to opt for family member coverage, we are putting them on equal ground with civilians who might obtain family coverage as a rider to their master civilian life insurance policies," he explained. "This relieves members from having to seek out more than one provider in order to acquire coverage for the family."

Military personnel flights can expect to receive detailed implementing instructions in September.

RELATED LINKS

Servicemembers' Group
Life Insurance at
[www.insurance.va.gov/
sglivgli/sglifam.htm](http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglivgli/sglifam.htm)

608th Combat Operations Squadron happenings

By Senior Airman Tralix Strickland
608th Combat Operations Squadron

In the wake of the recent Roving Sands 01 joint exercise, the proud folks at Mudbug Haven would like to extend to our fellow Mudbugs our sincere appreciation for a job well done!

We would also like to congratulate those Mudbugs who over the past three months have made significant contributions to our continued excellence. During a time when time itself is a precious commodity, and there is never enough of it to go around, we proudly take this moment to recognize some of the special accomplishments of our people.

The month of June was filled with the sounds of wedding bells for two Mudbugs as they both entered the world of matrimony. Master Sgt. Kevin Hoover was joined in wedlock to Karen Bell of

Bossier City, La on June 3. Airman 1st Class Erin Gandy also recited vows when she was united with Senior Airman Gary Brown of the 608 ACOMS on the June 15.

We would like to congratulate both couples on their new endeavors and wish all of them the best of luck.

Special congratulations are also in order for A1C Gandy-Brown as she and her husband welcomed the birth of their son Kaleb Shane Brown, who became a Mudbug on June 21. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Like many of the other squadrons around the Mighty Eighth, the 608 COS had a pretty impressive promotee list. Heading up the list are Tech. Sgts. Hoover and Preston Gladney of TF-204 were selected for promotion to Master Sergeant. We also welcomed Staff Sgt. June Benzor to TF-204 and her new

stripe as she was selected for promotion to Technical Sergeant and came to us from the 2nd Bomb Wing Command Post.

Rounding up the list, we had three inductees to the Non Commissioned Officer ranks; Senior Airmen Mark Ford, James Martinez and Christina Falcon-Garcia who were promoted to Staff Sergeant. We would like to congratulate all of them on their well-deserved success.

We would also like to welcome to our Mudbug family Lt. Col. Dan Clevenger and Senior Master Sgt. Ron Harris, who both came to us from Whiteman Air Force Base, MO. SSgt. Sharon Carruthers also transferred from the Command Post, and will now call TF-204 home. We are exited about all of the positive things going on in the squadron and we are thrilled to see all the new faces.

